(c) Predominant share of allocation in the import of urea is that of two major public sector undertakings viz. MMTC Limited and State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC). The allocations are made looking to their experience and past performance.

**Death of tribal children in the Melghat Forest area**

*260. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT
RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 4000 tribal children have died in the Melghat Forest area of the Amravati District of Maharashtra during the last three years and almost everyone is blaming the callous attitude of his Ministry for this tragedy;

(b) if so, what is the response of Govenrment thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken for prevention of such tragedy in the protected forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from State Government of Maharashtra and will be placed on the Table of the House.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

**Krishi Vigyan Kendra**

1861. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer the answer to Unstarred Question 4427 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1997 and state:

(a) what are the locations of the 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras' alongwith their performance and achievements till date; and

(b) what are the details of the activities of 42 selected centres where ICAR has launched innovative projects on technology assessment and refinement through institution village linkage programmes (I.V.L.P.)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in 253 districts of the country. The details of locations of the KVKs are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 50]. The activities of the KVKs include vocational training to farmers including farm women and youths, on-farm testing, front-line demonstration and in-service training to extension functionaries. During 8th plan period, the KVKs have organized 67,771 training programmes in various fields of agriculture and allied areas, viz, crop production, horticulture, livestock production, home science, agril engineering and other allied enterprises; and benefited 14.39 lakhs farmers, rural youths and farm-women. Front-line demonstrations with the focus on Oilseeds and Pulses were organized in order to demonstrate the production potentials of these crops. During the last five years about 20,000 demonstrations covering an area of 7378 hectares were organized on important pulse crops and about 30,000 demonstrations in 12690 hectares on important oilseeds crops. A total of 2,945 training programmes were conducted for 67,123 extension functinaries.

To speed up the process of transfer of technology various extenstion activities such as field days (10,893), Farmers Fairs (945), Agricultural Exhibitions (539) and